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30 September 2005

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ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT – WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has reviewed the Annual Monitoring Report (Annual Report) for the Westside San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (Coalition), which was submitted on 1 April 2005. This Annual Report was submitted by the Coalition to meet the conditions of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order No. R5-2003-0826 for Coalitions under Resolution No.R5-2003-0105.

The Water Board would like to recognize the outstanding effort that is being put forth by the Coalition in order to provide a thorough approach to compliance with the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program. The timely submittal of the 2004 AMR by the Coalition, the tour of the Coalition boundaries that was provided to Central Valley Water Board staff on 3 August 2005, active participation in Technical Issues Committee, and prompt responses to inquiries are also invaluable. We are confident that continuation of this level of collaboration will help protect water quality and ensure success for the Coalition approach being utilized in the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.

The attached review provides some recommendations regarding the organization of the Annual Report that might improve the presentation of data. Although these are not specifically required by the MRP, they are suggestions that the Coalition might find useful and are items that will be helpful for the Central Valley Water Board's evaluation of the report. Additionally, staff has prepared three tables that summarize monitoring data for the coalition and indicate the exceedances for pesticides, toxicity, and general water quality parameters. Utilization of tables similar to these in the next monitoring report would be useful to the Coalition as well as to the Central Valley Water Board. Copies of these tables are included with this letter.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The attached review summary also includes additional comments, suggestions and clarifications of requirements that are part of the MRP, many of which have already been provided to the Coalition in communications with Central Valley Water Board staff. It has been noted that as a result of the communications, many of the items discussed in the staff review have already been addressed by the Coalition. These items are summarized below.

Follow-up to any exceedances require that communications to the Central Valley Water Board include actions taken to address the exceedances. Some of these actions may be assessment and implementation of management practices, secondary monitoring to identify the source, pesticide use evaluations and other activities undertaken to address water quality. The Coalition has communicated with staff regarding general follow-up to water quality exceedances, including consultation with area farmers and some structural management practice implementation. Staff will be in contact with the Coalition regarding the need for additional information such as pesticide use, mechanisms for source identification, management practice implementation and other management activities that have not yet been communicated to the Water Board.

At a minimum, the Coalition should be collecting this type of detailed information for the surrounding land areas and identifying possible sources for water quality exceedances for the following sites: Del Puerto Creek, Hospital Creek at River Road, Orestimba Creek, Los Banos Creek, Salado Creek, Salt Slough, Newman Wasteway, and Westley Wasteway. These sites exhibited water column toxicity and other exceedances for pesticides, *e-coli*, solids, and other general water quality parameters.

The attached review of the Coalition AMR indicates that the Coalition will also need to take into consideration the following specified items:

- Communication reports shall be submitted for exceedances of all water quality parameters, including pH, DO, coliform, pesticides and other parameters that have associated Basin Plan objectives.
- The need for laboratory analyses that achieve detection levels at, or below receiving water limitations/water quality goals is necessary to evaluate effective water quality protection. The Coalition should consult with their contract laboratory(ies) with respect to these levels.
- Appropriate follow-up for samples that exhibit toxicity, including re-sampling, dilution series and Toxicity Identification Analyses must be conducted as described in Order No. R5-2005-0833.

- Conduct monitoring for all 303(d) listed contaminants in tributaries to listed waterbodies. The Coalition needs to add selenium in Salt Slough, selenium and boron in Mud Slough and DDE in Orestimba Creek.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Swanson at 916-464-4849, or jswanson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed By:

MARGIE LOPEZ READ
Senior Environmental Scientist

Enclosures: Staff Review of Annual Monitoring Report
Monitoring data summary tables (3)

Westside San Joaquin Valley
Drainage Authority

30 September 2005

MLR/w/irrigatedlands/coalitionsWestside/amrreview/final documents/CoverLetterWESTSIDE093005

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